

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IO-13 SSO-00 INRE-00
NSCE-00 ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 /086 W
-----012296 211553Z /47

O P 211534Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3754
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 7849

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: -
SUBJ: LEBANESE-ISRAELI NAVAL ENCOUNTER

REF. STATE 156572

1. INF INTELLIGENCE SPOKESMAN
TOLD US TODAY THAT ISRAELI UNIT INVOLVED IN 18 JUN
INCIDENT WITH LEBANON COAST GUARD DID NOT FIRE ON
THE LEBANESE SHIP BUT DID FIRE ON THE SUSPECTED
CONTRABAND SHIP DIMITRIA ONE (SIC) IN ORDER TO STOP HER.

2. IN A BRIEFING REQUESTED BY ALUSNA IN RESPONSE TO REF
INF SPOKESMAN STATED THE DIMITRIA ONE PROCEEDED SOUTHERLY OFF
THE LEBANON COAST UNTIL SHE REACHED QUOTE AN AREA
CLOSE TO THE NORTHERN BORDER OF ISRAEL UNQUOTE.
WHEN SHE TURNED EAST SHE WAS FIRED UPON AND SEARCHED
BY INF DABUR PB WHICH WAS IN COMMUNICATION WITH INF
HEADQUARTERS. UPON ASCERTAINING THE CARGO WAS WHISKEY
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AND OTHER CONTRABAND THE DIMITRIA WAS RELEASED. THE
INF SPOKESMAN STATED THE LEBANON COAST GUARD BOAT
ARRIVED ON THE SCENE, BUT WAS NOT FIRED UPON.

3. COMMENT: AALUSNA QUESTIONED INF SPOKESMAN TO
DETERMINE ISRAEL'S CLAIM TO WATERS OFF LEBANON. HIS
REPLY WAS LINKED TO A TELEVISION SPEECH BY THE COMMANDER

ISRAEL NAVY, RADM BARKAI, WHO SAID ISRAEL WOULD PROTECT
HER SEA BORDERS TO INCLUDE SEARCHING SUPICIOUS SHIPS
IN AREAS NEAR HER BORDERS. HE REFUSED TO ELABORATE ON
SPECIFIC DISTANCES, IMPLYING THAT SUCH DECISIONS WOULD
REMAIN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COMMANDER ISRAEL
NAVY, LEWIS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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